Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. July 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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FURTHER TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

June 1877.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. July 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Telegraphic Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 31, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has offered to allow neutral vessels on the Danube to ascend above Timor on condition that guarantees are given that they are not destined for Russians or carriage of contraband of war. Austrian Ambassador has stated to-day, in a note to the Porte, that the Austrian Government are not only willing to give these guarantees, but will consent that the Turkish authorities at kale should visit such vessels to ascertain that they are executed. Austrian Ambassador further states in his note that "his Government hope that the Porte will conform to their just demand by no longer insisting upon measures which they cannot accept, and which, if persisted in, would be of a nature to provoke confiicts which they desire to avoid, and to which it would be certainly not in the interest of the Porte to give rise." I have informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that I am instructed to support Austrian demand.

No. 2.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 30th, Colonel Wellesley had better accept the invitation to accompany the Russian army.

No. 3.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 497 of the 23rd ultimo, have you addressed a representation to the Porte respecting the freedom of the navigation of the Danube, similar to that of the Austrian Ambassador?

No. 4.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 130.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 1, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL at Dardanelles reports that torpedoes have just been placed in Straits of Dardanelles between Sultania and Namasghieh forts, the place at which

ships usually call for pratique. They are placed in a double line of eight, each at intervals of 170 yards between torpedo and torpedo, width of passage at that point being about 1,500 yards. The torpedoes are sunk to a depth of 36 feet below the surface, and will be exploded by electricity from either shore; they present no danger or obstacle to ordinary navigation. The torpedoes have been made at Constantinople; they are very good cylinders, and are reported to contain exploding charges of from 500 to 1,000 lbs. of pellet powder.

It is contemplated to place mines between forts of Nagarah and Boraleh, about three miles above Chanak, and at the lower entrance of the Straits, between the castles of Seddul Bahr and Kum Kalé, but this work is not yet commenced.

No. 5.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Therapia, June 1, 1877, 7·15 P.M.*

I AM informed that the Sultan, when giving private audience to the German Ambassador, declared that the present war was a very iniquitous one, which he had done his best to avert, and that he had given every guarantee for the better government of his country, especially by granting the Constitution. German Ambassador expressed in reply the Emperor's deep regret at having seen it actually break out, and assured His Majesty of the Emperor's disinterestedness, as well as of his friendly feelings towards Turkey, adding that His Majesty would have occasion to judge better of their sincerity hereafter.

No. 6.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 132.) *Therapia, June 1, 1877, 10·45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, I only received by messenger this morning a copy of the Austrian representation respecting freedom of navigation of the Danube, inclosed in your despatch No. 139 of the 22nd ultimo, Austrian Ambassador not having communicated it to me. A similar representation will go in from me to-morrow. I have, as your Lordship will have learnt by previous telegrams, supported verbally the representations which the Austrian Ambassador informed me he had addressed to the Porte.

No. 7.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

Washington, June 1, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, the Russian ship-of-war at Philadelphia is the "Kraiser," described in inclosure in my despatch No. 153 of the 22nd ultimo. Russian Admiral (Crown) having suddenly gone to San Francisco, I have telegraphed to Consul to report to me by telegraph the object of his visit.

I hear positively Russian fleet from New York will call first at Flores in the Azores.

No. 8.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 1, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY starts immediately; am I authorized to draw for his expenses?

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 2, 1877, 11 A.M.*

TURKISH Government has been again alarmed by information from Servia that Prince Milan has been encouraged by Russia to declare war; that there is great activity in military preparations; that the first ban of the reserve has again been called out; that cartridges are being made; military roads repaired from interior to frontier; and that three Russian superior staff officers are at Belgrade or some other place. I have telegraphed this to Mr. White.

Austrian Ambassador informs me very confidentially that the Emperor of Austria has received the most solemn personal assurances from Emperor of Russia that his troops will not enter Servia, and that he will endeavour to prevent the Prince making war. His Excellency begged that this should not be repeated.

No. 10.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 2, 1877.*

THE latest information I have of Russian movement is against Kizl Ervad, not Merve. Following communicated by me yesterday to the Viceroy of India:—"Meshed Agent telegraphed yesterday there is information from Boojnoord that four Russian regiments, with 500 horses, had arrived ten days ago within two stages Kizl Ervad, the first of the Akhal encampments, with the intention of occupying the Akhal country." Captain Napier is still here, having definitely abandoned his proposed journey, as I reported in my despatch No. 61* of the 4th of May.

No. 11.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1877, 4 P.M.*

IT is not clear from your telegram of 31st whether Austrian Ambassador has agreed to conditions on which Porte offers to allow neutral vessels to ascend Danube, or what the measures are which Austrian Government cannot accept. Please explain, and if the matter is not already settled continue to urge that the permission be granted.

No. 12.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 3.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 2, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th of May, I learned by telegram yesterday from Meshed Agent that the Persian troops now on duty in Khorassan are two and a half regiments regular infantry and two local regiments in Kayn and Seistan. There are twelve guns in the latter districts and thirteen in Meshed. This information communicated in detail to the Government of India.

No. 13.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 3.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 2, 1877.*

THIS morning Turkish forces at Podgoritza assumed the offensive, and are marching into Montenegro.

Telegraph in that [sense?] to Constantinople.

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* Not yet received.

No. 14.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 2, 1877, 11·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day I have been constantly urging the Porte, in accord with the Austrian Ambassador, to allow neutral vessels to ascend the Danube. I have this moment heard from him that the Porte has at last consented. The conditions agreed to by the Austrian Government are that such vessels shall not be destined for Russian service, and that they shall not carry contraband of war; and in order to secure fulfilment of these conditions, Austrian Government consent that vessels belonging to Austrians shall be searched by Turkish authorities at Adakale. The measures stated in my telegram that Austrian Government cannot accept, are those which the Porte had hitherto determined to enforce to prevent neutral vessels from ascending the river. I quoted words of Austrian note, a copy of which has been sent to your Lordship yesterday. I trust that the question is now finally settled, but there has been great disagreement on the subject in the Turkish Cabinet.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 2, 1877, 11·55 P.M.*

GENERAL KEMBALL telegraphs following, dated Hintz, this morning:—

"General retreat of Turkish forces has been reported. No news from Kars. It is time Mukhtar Pasha should declare his final resolution, and Porte should determine plan, particularly in respect to Trebizond and guns *en route*. From the comparison of the forces, and the unprepared state of the Turks, I conclude it is not Mukhtar Pasha's intention to defend Erzeroum."

No. 16.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1877, 1 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum:—

"Muktar Pasha will retire to-day ( ). Van corps has been ordered to join him immediately, with available force at Toprak Kalé or ( ). Olti corps has been ordered to retire at once to Gorgebogas. Mukhtar Pasha may concentrate about fifty battalions for defence of Erzeroum, but he is very weak in field artillery and cavalry. Circassians were severely handled by Russian cavalry on Wednesday in Kars plain. Troops here insubordinate. Complain of being insufficiently and badly fed and clothed, and not paid. Barracks had to be closed on Wednesday to prevent disturbance. 600 deserters brought here on Wednesday and sent back to their battalions. Flying parties of Cossacks have penetrated to Olti, purpose to calm inhabitants, and prevent their fleeing. Copies of the Russian Proclamation have been left in the villages, but no one dares to show them yet."

No. 17.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 3, 1877, 2:30 P.M.*

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA accompanied by Czarovitch and Grand Duke Serge left yesterday evening for the headquarters of army. Count Schouvaloff will leave to-morrow, stop day at Berlin to see Emperor William, and arrive in London Friday next. He has been instructed not to divulge nature of answer of which he is bearer until it has been communicated to your Lordship. He thinks and hopes that it will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

Colonel Wellesley leaves for headquarters Tuesday.

No. 18.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, June 3, 1877, 3:30 P.M.*

AS the Austrian Ambassador has communicated to your Lordship the answer of the Austrian Government to your note of the 19th, Count Andrassy has been good enough to authorize its being read to me to-day.

No. 19.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1877, 12:30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum:—

"On 27th Moukhtar Pasha, to prevent Circassians revolting, permitted them to try to succour Kars. They left head-quarters with Mussa Pasha early Monday, reached Bendli Achmet and contiguous villages in Kars plain same afternoon. Russians being apprized surrounded the village during the night with infantry and cavalry. At dawn onset began; in a short time but few Circassians remained, no quarter being given. It is believed of 1,500 Circassians not more than 400 escaped. Their Pasha is missing, Moukhtar Pasha is now without cavalry, and his position is critical. He has retired to Zevin, but having no cavalry, it is doubtful if he can continue retreat to Keuprikeui, as Russian cavalry from activity observed in the camp is evidently making a forward movement, probably to force Soghanli Dagh. Carts have been sent from Olti to transport Commander-in-chief's camp."

No. 20.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1877, 10·15 P.M.*

I HAVE sent following to Tehran:—

"Persian Minister has informed Porte that about 3,000 Turkish Kurds of the Herki tribe have crossed into Persia and pillaged Marghiavir, killing two officers and some of the garrison, and are extending their depredations to other places. Porte is warned from Tehran that it must not be surprised if Persia takes military measures for defending her frontiers. Minister of the Interior promised to telegraph immediately to authorities to institute inquiries into the matter."

No. 21.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1877, 3:30 P.M.*

ADMIRALTY wish you to send from time to time intelligence of the Turkish or other men-of-war stationed or calling at the Island of Crete in the usual printed form.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Nixon.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1877, 3·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th April, relative to the crew of the residency steamer, correspondence on the subject has been sent to the Indian Government, and you should communicate with them on the subject.

No. 23.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 4, 1877, 2 P.M.*

OFFICIAL telegram from Grand Duke Michael, dated 3rd of June and published this morning, states that General Lomakin reports having been attacked at Kizil Arvat by 6,000 Tekhes. Combat lasted four hours, when the Tekhes fled, having sustained great losses. One killed and eleven wounded on the part of Russians. After the fight the Khans and elders gave in their submission, and since 27th May all goes favourably.

No. 24.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, June 4, 1877.*

BULGARIANS fear massacres directly passage of Russians reported. My opinion is that general interest requires that all the Consuls of the Great Powers should not quit their posts, otherwise massacres possible. Austrian colleague of same opinion. Telegraphed Constantinople.

No. 25.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 5, 1877, 3·20 P.M.*

STATE of siege is established in Bucharest, probably on account of Poles, in respect of the arrival of the Emperor of Russia.

Giurgevo is being heavily shelled by Turkish batteries, and is in flames.

No. 26.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1877.*

WAR OFFICE state that Wellesley should send in his claims for travelling expenses from time to time to the War Office, when the amounts due will be paid by his agents. If he requires an advance, it will be made to his agents in London by the War Office, on the amount required being notified.

No. 27.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

RUSSIAN and Roumanian Governments have called the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the reckless manner in which the Turks are said to be laying torpedoes in the Danube, without taking proper steps to mark their position, so that they may be removed when no longer required.

Urge the Porte to give immediate instructions to Turkish military and naval authorities to take proper precautions in laying torpedoes, so as to allow of their removal after the termination of hostilities.

No. 28.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 5, 1877.*

BATTLE near Spuz commenced this morning at dawn and lasted eight hours. Turks claim to have carried positions around Danilograd. Sent to Constantinople.

No. 29.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 6, 1877.*

SENT to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople last night:—

"Nothing known here in confirmation of the apprehensions mentioned in your telegram of the 2nd instant; and the character of Servian preparations is not such as to suppose immediate war, though it does not exclude hostile designs when a more favourable opportunity presents itself. Nothing known of the presence of Russian officers here."

No. 30.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 6, 1877, noon.*

I HAVE received following from Erzeroum:—

"Russians have taken Olti. Their cavalry is now pushing reconnoitering parties towards Gheorgiboghaz. Five battalions and ammunition have been sent to-day in haste to latter place.

"Battalions coming from Toprak Kalé reached this in bad condition. McCalmont reports 30 per cent. of the troops along the road as unfit for immediate service, being footsore and ill. Russians liberate all reserve battalions taken at Ardahan, retaining 500 regulars prisoners. Cossacks have been reported seen in Isper district; they threaten communications with Baiburt."

No. 31.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, June 6, 1877.*

THE Czar passed by rail about 11 this morning.

No. 32.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 6, 1877, 11·25 P.M.*

PRINCE of Montenegro's Secretary has telegraphed to the French Consul, and asked him to acquaint me that battle yesterday near Spuz was a defeat of the Turks, who were driven till under the walls of that fortress, leaving a number of killed on the field. Secretary also states that a Turkish fort in the Duga Pass has been taken. Turks here still claim victory, and say they will probably renew their march to-morrow. On the side of Kolashin the Turks also claim a victory and the occupation of Meritan.

No. 33.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7, 4 P.M.*)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 7, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*

TURKISH Government have decided upon not permitting cypher telegrams to be sent by Consuls and Military Attachés in Europe. They say that they would willingly make an exception in our favour, but that if they do so they might be compelled to grant same privilege to others who are known to be hostile to Turkey.

They earnestly beg Her Majesty's Government not to insist that the Military Attachés should be allowed to telegraph in cypher.

I have suggested that general substance of a cyphered telegram might be previously communicated to the Commander-in-chief or to the military authorities. I doubt whether even this will be agreed to on account of others who are not to be trusted asking for the same. Telegrams in English are to be admitted.

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 7, 1877, 12·10 P.M.*

THE Porte has informed me that all ships arriving at the Dardanelles at nightfall must stop before Sedal Bahr and Koum Kalé till daybreak. The authorities will fire blank cartridge upon any ship acting in defiance of this regulation.

No. 35.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7, 4·10 P.M.*)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 7, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Colonel Nixon, Bagdad, dated yesterday :—

"The Persian troops have retired from Mohammerah to await orders at Ahwaz. Hushmit o Dowlat follows with the rest in a few days. No aggressive movement is anticipated there now as the question of the island is settled. If any aggression occurs will report at once. Gun-boat 'Rifleman' has arrived at Busreh. The 'Daphne' leaves on Saturday."

No. 36.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 7, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*

MARTIAL law is proclaimed throughout Roumania, with the exception of five districts in the mountains.

No. 37.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 7, 1877.*

POPULAR demonstrations having impressed upon the different party leaders and upon the Chamber the necessity of union, a coalition Government has been formed consequently, under the presidency of Admiral Canaris, composed of all the party leaders except M. Bulgaris, whom they did not invite to join them.

No. 38.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 7.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, June 7, 1877.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF passed through Berlin yesterday under orders, proceeding direct to London, where he arrives this evening. His Excellency was unable to see M. de Bülow, and is said to have declined Emperor's invitation to Lignitz.

No. 39.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1877, 5 P.M.*

IS Captain Heneage available to go to Bucharest? We may want to send to Wellesley.

No. 40.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1877, 6 P.M.*

I PROPOSE to send Captain Heneage to Bucharest if Colonel Wellesley or you have any important despatches to send. Let me know if you require a messenger.

No. 41.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1877, 6·20 P.M.*

CAN you ascertain privately where 4th, 13th, and 14th Russian corps are?

No. 42.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

WHAT Rusian corps are now at Galatz?

No. 43.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1877, 7·20 P.M.*

SHIPPERS of coal to Port Saïd for use of merchant-steamers passing through Canal desire to be protected from risk of cargo being captured as contraband. Will Russian Government give such assurances or agree to such arrangement as will relieve British shippers and shipowners of any doubt or anxiety on the subject? Stoppage of coal supply at Port Saïd would cause serious impediment to Canal traffic.

No. 44.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 7, 1877, 7·20 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has said to the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that the Emperor of Russia does not wish to cross the Balkans; that after any marked success on Turkish side of the Danube, His Imperial Majesty would receive with satisfaction an overture from the Powers for settling terms of peace; that the initiative in proposing such an overture might appropriately be taken by France. Duc Decazes is of opinion that it would be better that the initiative should be taken by Germany, and thinks that this might be suggested to Germany by Her Majesty's Government. Failing this, he thinks Her Majesty's Government might make a proposal to all the Powers in common. He believes, however, that Austria is unwilling that peace should be made immediately, and he says that since this morning he has become absolutely certain that at the beginning of the war a diplomatic document was signed by Count Andrassy and the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, stipulating that neither Russia nor Austria should occupy Servia, but that if the war went on, Austria should take possession, first of Turkish Croatia and afterwards of all Bosnia. Instructions go to-night to French Ambassador to speak to your Lordship about these matters.

No. 45.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 7, 1877, 7·45 P.M.*

DUC DECAZES puts forward, most confidentially, the idea that if Dardanelles are opened, France and England should unite to establish a joint protectorate by them of Egypt and Syria, with Crete and Cyprus as advanced posts.

I have given no encouragement to the idea.

No. 46.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 7, 1877.*

PERSIAN GOVERNMENT have announced their intention of forming a military camp near Oroomiah, in consequence of a recent serious aggression by Turkish tribe Herkee.

I am dissuading them from sending larger force than requisite to maintain order on that part of the frontier.

They have now received intelligence that a considerable Turkish force with twenty guns has been dispatched to Persian frontier at Khanekun, and they announce their intention to reform camp lately withdrawn from Zohab.

No. 47.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 8, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of May 28th, Persian Government accept terms proposed by Porte for withdrawal from Island in the Euphrates, and agree not to build or fortify or place Persian soldiers upon it pending ultimate decision.

It arranged that proposed camp near Oroomah shall not be formed for the present pending references to Constantinople and London.

Communicated to Constantinople and India.

No. 48.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 142.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 7, 1877, 12·5 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following from Tehran:—

"Persian Government has announced to Turkish Legation and myself that military camp will be formed on Merghever frontier in view of recent attack of Herkee tribe, referred to in your Excellency's telegrams of May 3. I am endeavouring to disuade them from sending larger force than is requisite to restore and maintain order on that part of the frontier. Shah's absence has delayed treatment of this and Euphrates Island question, but he returns to-day. They have just received intelligence that Porte has sent twenty guns with regular troops, infantry and cavalry in proportion, to the Persian frontier at Jewanikeen, and that a Turkish officer is purchasing and collecting materials there for constructing guard-houses within the Persian territory. The Persian Government, in consequence of this information, have announced to me that they will also send a force to that part of the frontier to reform camp withdrawn from Zohab at my urgent suggestion, and that any attempt to build guard-houses will be forcibly prevented."

No. 49.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 7, 1877, 9·45 P.M.*

THE information received by the Porte and by the principal Greeks here is that as soon as Russians cross Danube, and obtain any success, Greece will enter upon hostilities against Turkey, and Greek troops will cross Turkish frontiers into Epirus and Thessaly, where an insurrection of the Christians is anticipated. Simultaneous rising is to take place in Crete. The language held to me to-day by the Greek Minister fully confirms this. Many Greek merchants here have, I understand, sent money to Greece for this object, and fresh calls are being made upon them by the Greek committees. (Sent to Athens.)

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 146.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 10 A.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has asked me whether Her Majesty's Government would object to the Porte naming a Turkish Consul at Peshawur. I avoided giving an answer to the question, but I understand that it may be repeated to me or to Her Majesty's Government in a more formal manner. The object, it is stated, of the appointment would be "to promote, through the Sultan's influence, a good understanding between England and Affghanistan, and to counteract influence of Russia."

Sent to Viceroy of India.

No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 8, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

FOURTH and fourteenth corps d'armée are on the march from the Russian frontier. Thirteenth is passing westward from Galatz.

No. 52.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

Bucharest, June 8, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

A PERMANENT messenger would be doubtless a great convenience both to myself and to Colonel Wellesley. The latter is not yet arrived.

No. 53.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

Galatz, June 8, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th, part of the 14th Russian corps d'armée is now here. The 18th corps d'armée was to leave Ibraila yesterday for Giurgevo.

No. 54.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

Scutari, June 8, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RESULTS of battle of 5th appear (to be) that the Turks failed to gain footing on the hills on the left bank of the Zeta, but that they have maintained advanced positions in front of Spuz.

Montenegrins bombarding Spuz with field guns.

Turks say some wounded have been mutilated.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 55.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

Vienna, June 8, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE official information received here from Montenegro represents the military operations as being so far favourable to Turks.

No. 56.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 147.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Secret.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

SULTAN is anxious to send an Envoy or Agent to the Ruler of Affghanistan. He wishes to know whether Her Majesty's Government would object. His Majesty says that, so far from such a mission being opposed to English interests, the Envoy would do all in his power to promote them. The person chosen for this mission would probably be Suleiman Effendi, a native of Bokhara, who has already been employed by the Porte in Central Asia, and who is, I believe, known to our Indian authorities. The suggestion as to the appointment of a Consul, referred to in my telegram of this morning, came from Grand Vizier. (Telegraphed to India.)

No. 57.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 148.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 5·35 P.M.

BULGARIAN Deputy sent to inquire into state of affairs in the Dobrutsha has returned, and describes the condition of that province as very bad—the

Circassians and Tartars plundering and committing outrages in all directions, even upon German colonists. Porte has promised to recall present Governor and to take energetic measures to restore order. I am strongly urging them to do so.

No. 58.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 149.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

I AM informed that Chamber will authorize the Government to raise a forced loan of about 4,000,000*l.*

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 150.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 6·0 P.M.

I AM informed officially by Turkish Government that torpedos having been placed in the Bay of Suda, in Crete, the entrance to it at night has been prohibited to all vessels of war and commerce. No guns must be fired by vessels on their arrival at night. A Turkish man-of-war is on guard at the entrance.

No. 60.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 151.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING to Lennox:—

"(Secret.)

"The Porte will not allow any more telegrams to be sent in cypher. Commander-in-chief will be directed to make an exception in your favour, but this must be done very secretly, so that others may not insist upon the same privilege.

"You had better come to an understanding on the subject with him and the military authorities where you are."

No. 61.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 152.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 8, 1877, *noon.*

FOLLOWING from General Kemball, dated 6th instant:—

"*Tchakerli*, 12 P.M.

"Arrived here Sunday by cross roads from Pennek, after meeting troops from Olti retiring on Chouruk Sou. Moukhtar Pasha has fallen back behind formidable position, fourteen miles from here, where he is entrenching himself to cover all roads from the passes of the Soghanli Dagh, converging on Keuprikeui. Two battalions have come from Hintz. Nine battalions are to-day reported to be retiring from Mollah Suleiman and Toprak Kaló to Delibaba, and five battalions from Delibaba to a village three miles from here. Russian reconnaissance has been pushed to Olti and to Toprak Kalé."

No. 62.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 9, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Sir A. Kemball, Erzeroum :—

"*Chorouk Su, Wednesday evening.*

"Visited Moukhtar Pasha to-day.

"Kars closely invested by 60,000 men. Grand Duke has come to witness proposed attack in force. Concentrated fire of sixty guns, followed by continued assaults, as at Ardahan, without reference to sacrifice of life. Moukhtar Pasha says he cannot relieve Kars or create a diversion, owing to want of transport and provisions. It is clear to me, for the same reason, and for want of cavalry, he intends to retire all his forces to Erzinghan, in advance of Russians. He says that he will have time to construct requisite defensive works absolutely necessary. Meanwhile, he has detached three battalions and 500 Circassians, to act with four battalions coming from Erzinghan against the Russian forces at Olti, said to consist only of three battalions of infantry and 1,000 Cossacks. Enemy's side has eighteen mountain guns."

No. 63.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 9, 1877, 11·50, P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant, I have received positive assurances from Minister of Marine that the positions where torpedoes have been placed in the Danube have been carefully marked so that they may be removed when no longer required.

No. 64.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 9, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

I HEAR from, I believe, a trustworthy source, that the person referred to in my despatch No. 557 of the 31st ultimo, has a letter from the Sultan of Turkey to the Emperor of Morocco, and some presents of arms for His Majesty, and that six female slaves were sent, who left this some time before the bearer of the letter. He has just telegraphed that he has been received with much honour; that the Emperor sent 100 horsemen to meet him, and that he is confident of the success of his mission."

No. 65.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 9, 1877.

THE Turks are reported to-day at the Foreign Office to have carried a position at the entrance of the Douga Pass. As, however, the Montenegrins still occupy the Pass more fighting is expected.

The expeditions from Scutari and against Grahovo appear to have been unsuccessful.

No. 66.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 9, 1877.

THERE is no intention whatever of invading Turkey at present. There are no troops available for such a purpose, and the new Government is sufficiently strong to

prevent irregular expeditions. The country requires certain military preparations, in view of possible emergencies.

Unless something unforeseen occurs in the Hellenic provinces, the Porte need not apprehend any breach of international duty on the part of Greece.

Such is the substance of the assurances just given to me by M. Tricoupi.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 67.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 139 of May 22, Minister for Foreign Affairs declares to me, in a note dated yesterday, which will be sent by messenger, that the Porte entirely agrees with Her Majesty's Government with respect to the principle of the freedom of the navigation of the Danube as regards the restrictive measures actually in force, that can only be provisional and temporary. Their employment leaves untouched the principles and general rules applicable to the navigation of the Danube, which will be again in force as soon as the necessities of war permit.

No. 68.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, June* 10, 1877.

TURKS are amassing and arming Circassians along Danube. These are committing atrocities of every description among Christian villages on this side, and are sent across by night, when they return, without loss, covered with blood. Authorities will deny, but I have most undeniable disinterested ocular evidence.

No. 69.

Vice-Consul Stokes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sulina, June* 10, 1877.

RUSSIANS attacked Turkish fleet in roads last night with six torpedo-boats; attack repulsed; three torpedo-boats sunk; six prisoners taken; Admiral's ship damaged by torpedo.

No. 70.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June* 10, 1877.

INTELLIGENCE has reached Tehran, and is confirmed by Persian Government, that Russians have occupied Kizil-Ewad and Boormeh.

Communicated to India.

No. 71.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 10, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul at Sulina :—

"Russians attacked Turkish fleet in roads last night with six torpedo boats. Attack repulsed; three torpedo boats sunk; six prisoners taken. Admiral's ship damaged."

No. 72.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June* 10, 1877.

ERZEROUM route being now virtually closed, and the expenses for guards enormously increased, without our having reliable means of checking them, I have proposed to Mr. Layard, subject to your Lordship's approval, to send Embassy Tartars to meet Mission Gholam at Diarbekir or Moossul, as he may consider best.

The expenses of this route will probably fall short of the present increased charges.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 11, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

CONSUL at Rustchuk informs me that Turkish authorities believe that the Russians will very soon attempt to cross the Danube near Nicopolis and Turtacan. They believe that in front of Rustchuk there are about 20,000 Russians, but that only a feint will be made to cross there. The Russians, if they succeed in crossing a sufficient number of troops, will, it is expected, make an immediate attack upon the large earthwork at the back of Rustchuk called Levend Tabia, which completely commands the town and river, but will meet with a desperate resistance.

No. 74.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 11, 1877, *noon.*

THE French Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he knows positively that the Russian ships of war now at Brest are about to sail for Cronstadt, and that the Grand Duke Alexis leaves them and joins the Emperor on the Danube.

No. 75.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 11, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant respecting risk to shippers of coal to Port Saïd, Minister for Foreign Affairs states in a note to me dated to-day, that the Imperial Government are anxious not to cause difficulties to vessels to Port Saïd with coal for British merchant navy.

But as that port is within Ottoman territory, they consider it just that the same formality should be applied as in the case of coals destined for Her Majesty's fleet, namely, by requiring a certificate to be countersigned by the Russian Consul-General in London.

No. 76.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1877.

INQUIRE whether Turkish Government are willing in the present war to accept assistance from the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, on the express understanding that the assistance given on one side will be given to the same extent on the other.

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* A similar telegram was sent to Lord A. Loftus.

No. 77.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 11, 1877.

I AM assured that Prince Milan intends starting Wednesday next for Bucharest to pay his respects to the Emperor Alexander, accompanied by his Foreign Minister and three superior officers. Pray send to Therapia the above.

No. 78.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, June* 11, 1877, 1 P.M.

COLONEL LENNOX requests me to forward following telegrams to your Lordship, which I do without offering any opinion upon them :—

"Colonel Lennox assumes that he has *carte blanche* as to his movements, but wishes to know whether he ought or ought not to avoid being shut up in a besieged fortress?"

"Colonel Lennox suggests that Engineer officers should be told off to be shut up in Rustchuck, Silistria, and Shumla, to gain experience in defence of fortresses. They could be neutrals, as English officers were during Franco-German war; but in the event of England taking up arms, they could then assist in the defence of those places. Should this be permitted, there should always be two officers together."

No. 79.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, June* 11, 1877, 6 P.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Austrian Ambassador has sounded him as to whether, if an opportunity offered to propose peace, Austrian mediation would be accepted by Turkey? His Excellency further says the German Ambassador spoke to him generally with reference to the possibility of peace, but expressed his opinion that the Emperor of Russia would not make peace until he had achieved some signal success which would justify in the eyes of his people the sacrifices he had made in going to war, and that Turkey must be prepared to accept the conditions that may be proposed to her.

From what the German Ambassador has said to me, I am led to believe that some of those conditions, supported by Germany, might be the surrender to Russia of Batoum, the right of passage through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles of Russian ships of war, and some kind of right of interference of Russia for the protection of the Slav Christian populations of Turkey. I only gather this from his language and arguments.

No. 80.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 11, 1877, 11·35 P.M.

CONSUL at Erzeroum telegraphs that the Russians, after occupying Olti and destroying Turkish stores, &c., abandoned it and retired to Passin. Turks have reoccupied Olti with eight battalions.

No. 81.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 11.)

Vienna, June 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM received from the Governor of Dalmatia to-day reports that the Turks, having succeeded in provisioning Geransko, are now concentrated at Krugues, and about to force their way to Nichsich.

No. 82.

Vice-Consul Brown to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

Braila, June 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH gun-boats have left the Matchin branch by way of Hirsova. Torpedoes have been placed opposite Hirsova. Matchin garrison 1,000 regular, 600 irregular troops.

[Remainder undecyphcrable.]

No. 83.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

Bucharest, June 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY has arrived here to-day, Tuesday, June 12.

No. 84.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

Bucharest, June 12, 1877, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PASSAGE of the Danube will probably be attempted on the 25th instant.

Immense quantities of bridging "matériel" are collected at Magurelli, and some preparations are being made at Grula.

The Emperor is pressing forward the arrival of troops, as well as other preparations for bridging at Oltenitza.

No. 85.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1877, 3·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL SIBORNE reports that Turkish authorities at Sulina will not agree that flag of Danube Commission alone should be used on buildings and vessels of Commission.

Point out to the Porte the danger to which the property of the Commission is exposed by being forced to fly the Ottoman flag during the hostilities now taking place on the Danube.

No. 86.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SEND Heneage to Bucharest for despatches. His return should coincide with that of next Vienna messenger. Fortnightly service to Bucharest may be kept up in connection with Vienna messenger while war lasts. Communicate with Mansfield.

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1877.

THE Russian Ambassador has stated to me, in confidence, the terms which Russia would accept if peace is made before crossing the Balkans.

They are as follows:—

Bulgaria, as far as the Balkans, to be constituted a vassal autonomous province under the guarantee of Europe. The Turkish troops and functionaries to be withdrawn, the fortresses to be disarmed and razed. Self-government to be established, with the support of a national militia, to be organized as soon as possible.

The Powers to come to an agreement for securing to the part of Bulgaria south of the Balkans, as well as to the other Christian provinces of Turkey, the best possible guarantees for regular administration.

Montenegro and Servia to receive an augmentation of territory, to be determined upon in common.

Bosnia and Herzegovina to be endowed with institutions judged by common consent to be suitable to their internal condition and proper to secure to them a good native administration. The situation of these two provinces on the frontier of Austria-Hungary would give this latter Power a preponderating voice in their future organization.

Servia as well as Bulgaria would remain under the suzerainty of the Sultan; the relations of the Suzerain and his vassals to be defined in such manner as to prevent conflicts.

The question of the independence of Roumania to be decided by common agreement.

If the Porte were to sue for peace and accept the above conditions before the Russian troops have crossed the Balkans, Russia would accept peace, but would demand in return, as private advantages, in compensation for the expenses of the war:—

The restoration to Russia of the portion of Bessarabia ceded in 1856, as far as the northern arm of the Danube (that is, excluding the delta), and the cession of Batoum with an adjacent territory.

In the same case, Roumania to be compensated by common agreement, either by the proclamation of her independence, or, if she remained vassal, by a part of the Dobrudjeo.

If Austria-Hungary should demand compensation either for the acquisitions made by Russia, or as a pledge of security against the above-mentioned advantages to be given to the Christian Principalities in the Balkan peninsula, Russia would not object to her seeking those compensations in Bosnia and part of Herzegovina.

If the Porte were to ask for peace and accept the above conditions before the Russian armies have crossed the Balkans, the Emperor of Russia would consent not to push military operations any further. If the Turkish Government should refuse, Russia will pursue the war until the Porte is forced to subscribe to terms of peace. In that case, the conditions of the Imperial Cabinet might be different.

Is there, in your judgment, any probability of the Porte consenting to these terms? If not, any attempt at mediation, in the present state of affairs, seems useless.

No. 88.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 163.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 12, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA informs me that the Turkish Government will be happy to receive the aid of the National Society for Sick and Wounded on the conditions mentioned in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 89.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, June 13, 1877, 1·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, in my judgment Porte would not consent to the terms suggested to your Lordship by the Russian Ambassador. It could only see in them the dismemberment and annihilation of the Turkish Empire, and I am convinced that no Turkish Minister would dare to listen to them unless Turkey were utterly prostrate and Russian armies at the gates of Constantinople. It would, moreover, I think, be very dangerous at this moment even to suggest them to the Porte or to the Sultan. The secret would not be kept, and there is a party in the Palace which would at once make use of the information to drive the country into measures of despair, which might have the most fatal consequences, and might result in very gravely compromising the interests of England. Of course, if Her Majesty's Government desire, I will sound the Sultan or his Ministers upon the subject, but I venture earnestly to advise that this should not be done—at any rate at the present time.

No. 90.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 13, 1877, 10·30 P.M.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY has just returned from the Russian head-quarters, where he waited upon the Grand Duke Nicholas. His Imperial Highness received him in the most extraordinary manner, and used such unmeasured language, that it seems almost impossible that he should accompany the Russian army. The Grand Duke stated that he would be narrowly watched, and that if his conduct was in any way reprehensible, he would be immediately expelled from the camp.

Colonel Wellesley reports in further detail by post, and will await your Lordship's instructions at Bucharest.

No. 91.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 14, 1877, noon.*

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphs from Khorassan, dated Sunday evening:—

"Attack on Kars has not come off, but is still daily expected. Russians have established themselves in force on the west side towards Ardahan. Sortie had harassed Russians on their flank march. Olti has been again occupied by Turks, with their outposts. Russians retired on approach of Turkish detachments, which were converging on Olti from Moukhtar Pasha's camp, and from Hintz. Captains McCalmont and Trotter are with these detachments. Commander-in-chief has ordered eight battalions from Delibaba to resume position at Getshewan. They retired, he says, without permission. I think, nevertheless, their concentration at Delibaba an advisable movement which, sooner or later, must be adopted because Abdiah Suleiman easily turned, and not so easily supported. If Kars holds out, and Porte continues to comply with Moukhtar Pasha's requests for money and efficient agents prospects in this quarter will improve."

No. 92.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

IT is not desirable that anything should be said to the Turkish Government as to the Russian conditions of peace. They were communicated only for your personal information and opinion.

No. 93.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to previous communications as to proposed Russian terms of peace, Prince Gortchakow has now telegraphed to Russian Ambassador here that information on the spot shows that Bulgaria cannot be divided into two provinces, as such an arrangement would exclude from the autonomous institutions the most industrious and intelligent part of the population, and that which had most suffered from Turkish misrule.

I have told Count Schouvaloff, as my personal opinion, that, in my judgment, the Turkish Government were not likely to have accepted the terms as first proposed except under pressure of absolute necessity, and that this important modification made acceptance still more improbable.

The above for your own information only.

No. 94.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 14, 1877, 1 P.M.*

IT is reported that the Turkish batteries have caused very serious damage to the Russian bridging preparations at the mouth of the Aluta.

No. 95.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 14, 1877.*

PRINCE of Servia and his Foreign Minister have just left on their visit to Bucharest and Ployesti.

No. 96.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 14, 1877.*

REPORT of the revictualling of Nichsich by Suleiman Pasha not yet officially confirmed.

Information from Montenegro admits serious Montenegrin defeat at Kristach.

Fighting reported to-day at Spuz. Result unknown.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 97.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 14, 1877, 2 P.M.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs following, dated Sunday evening:—

"If Erzeroum were adequately stored with provisions and ammunition, and

supposing that the guns had arrived from Trebizond, Mouktar Pasha ought to be able, with his present force, to defend Erzeroum. Soghanlee Dagh has been already virtually abandoned, and owing to deficiency of cavalry and artillery Turkish forces must retire on Erzeroum when Russians advance.

"Authorities of Erzeroum ought to be urged to strengthen and render effectual the very light field works they are constructing on the Deveh Boyun and Gurgieh Baghazi position."

No. 98.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Constantinople, June* 15, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

YOU may be quite sure that not a word will be said by me about Russian conditions; it would be, in my opinion, most dangerous even to hint them to the Porte. I have written with reference to this by last messenger. I will write again.

No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June* 15, 1877, 11·50 A.M.

TYPHUS has broken out among the Russian troops. Four patients were yesterday placed in the Bucharest hospitals which had been prepared for the wounded.

No. 100.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 16, 1877, 11·10 A.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informs me that he has communicated to Porte the assurances which his Government has received from the Emperor of Russia that the visit of Prince Milan will in no way influence his determination to insist that the Prince shall not take part in the war against Turkey.

Porte expresses itself much offended by what it considers a violation of the Treaty recently concluded with Servia, and an ill-return for the generous forbearance with which it treated her, and more especially by Prince Milan also visiting the Prince Charles of Roumania, whom it considers a rebel to the Sultan.

No. 101.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 16, 1877, *noon.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 12th instant, Porte will not formally consent to Danube Commission not flying Turkish flag, as it attaches great importance to matter, but it hints confidentially that there is no reason why the Commission should not fly its own flag without the Turkish, when there is no Turkish authority near authorized to interfere with it. I have mentioned the subject to the Austrian Ambassador, who tells me that his Government have accepted the explanations of the Porte, and allowed the matter to drop.

Please inform Colonel Siborne.

No. 102.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, June* 16, 1877.

RUSSIANS suffered severe losses on or about the 12th near Kars, also near Soukoum Kalé on the 3rd instant. Revolt at Tchlav, 50 miles from Tiflis.

No. 103.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, June* 16, 1877.

RUSSIAN authorities refuse to let the sixty-three Turks go viâ Akhalziks and the Potzkov to Batoum. Please communicate this to Constantinople, so that the necessary instructions be issued by the Porte for the reception of those people at some particular outpost; also telegraph to me the name of the place, and I will inform authorities here.

No. 104.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 16, 1877.

TELEGRAMS in cypher for Her Majesty's Government are again refused here.

Turkish troops before Spuz commenced another advance this morning, and fighting is now going on beyond Elgrad.

No. 105.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 16, 1877, 9·45 P.M.

I AM informed that Russians have issued Proclamation to Bulgarians calling upon them to rise in arms against Turkey to avenge last year's atrocities.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17, *night.*)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 17, 1877, 6·20 P.M.

I HAVE been informed confidentially that on the recommendation of the Russian Minister at Athens, Greek Government has sent a secret Agent to meet the Emperor of Russia in Roumania.

Sent to Mr. Stuart.

No. 107.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17, *night.*)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 17, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

PORTE has decided upon sending Haidar Bey, formerly Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, in the same capacity to Tehran.

Sent to Mr. Thomson.

No. 108.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 17, night.*)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 17, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*

TRANSPORTS, with about 7,000 Egyptian troops furnished by Khedive, have just passed through the Bosphorus on their way to Varna.

No. 109.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 17, night.*)

Vienna, June 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Mr. St. John:—

"A telegram from Cettigné announces that 3,000 horses, laden with provisions, have entered Nichsich."

No. 110.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 17, night.*)

Scutari, June 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

NICHSICH was successfully relieved yesterday.

As the Montenegrins appear to have to give way gradually before the Turks, whose forces are daily increasing and already amount to upwards of 60,000 men, a moment may speedily arrive when the existence of Montenegro may be in the greatest danger.

If Montenegro should apply for intervention of Consuls to obtain suspension of hostilities should I take any action in the matter? Yesterday's fighting at Spuz resulted in a return of the Turks to their original position.

No. 111.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 17, night.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 17, 1877, 1·50 P.M.*

A BRIDGE has been thrown across the Danube at Ibraïla; the Emperor goes there to-morrow. There is every indication that the passage there will be rather in the character of a false attack. There is every chance that the passage will be attempted at a later date at Flamiuda, Zimnicea, at a spot half-way between Giurgevo and Oltenitza, as well as at Gura Jalomitza.

No. 112.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 18.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 18, 1877, 11·30 A.M.*

THIRTEENTH Army Corps is moving down towards the Danube. The 4th, which completes the active army of ten corps, is coming up rapidly by rail through Moldavia.

No. 113.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 18.*)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 18, 1877, 11 A.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte intends to take no notice of Prince Milan's visit to the Emperor of Russia in Roumania.

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 18.*)

Vienna, June 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 511, Confidential, I learn from Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the Porte included coals for Roumania in contraband trade of war on agreeing to permit navigation of the Danube as far as Tinok, and that the Austrian Government have accepted the arrangement.

No. 115.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June 18.*)

Galatz, June 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PREPARATIONS for a bridge have been begun on both sides of the Danube at Ibraila.

No. 116.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.[*]

Foreign Office, June 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government are not in a position to authorize any intervention for suspension of hostilities under present circumstances.

If any application is made to you by the Prince, it will be duly considered.

No. 117.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, June 18, 1877, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVING regard to peculiar necessities of Suez Canal, will Russian Government agree that coal shall not be deemed contraband of war by reason only of its being shipped to an Egyptian port, and instruct their Consular Officers in England to grant certificates of protection against seizure to coal ships on production of shipping documents or other evidence showing that the coal is intended for delivery in Egypt at a neutral depôt, or to neutral firms, individuals, or vessels?

No. 118.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Siborne.

Foreign Office, June 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. LAYARD reports that Porte will not give formal consent respecting flag, but no notice will be taken if Commission flag is flown without Turkish flag when there is no Turkish authority near authorized to interfere.

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[*] Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 119.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 18, 1877.*

HEAVY fighting has been going on all day, as the Turks from Nichsich and those from Spuz are endeavouring to form a junction.

No. 120.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 18, 1877.*

NICHSICH has been successfully revictualled by Suleiman Pasha, who is now penetrating into Montenegro.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 18, 1877, 11:30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador presented some days ago a very long note to the Porte, of which the following is the substance:—

Guarantees already given by the Porte's last note are considered incomplete, the reservation made by the Porte in case of need to take measures for defence of national territory inspires Austria with no confidence.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs declares that in the event of any infringement of the established principles of the free navigation of the Danube, Austria is resolved to undertake frankly their defence.

Austria does not consider the Danube as a line of defence for the Ottoman Empire. Austrian merchandize in merchant vessels left in ports of the Danube before the declaration of war should be respected.

Austria does not accept the instructions which leave to the Commander-in-chief the right of stopping at pleasure the navigation of the Danube.

Austria takes her stand on the Treaties and the public Acts relating to the navigation of the Danube, and declares herself ready to support her demands energetically. The whole tone of the note is peremptory.

Austrian Ambassador has not mentioned this note, which appears to have been kept secret, to me. I am promised copy of it.

No. 122.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 178. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 19, 1877, 12:30 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following to the Viceroy of India:—

"Sultan has named the Kasimsker Ahmet Khoulassi Effendi, brother of the late Grand Vizier Shirvanizadeh Mehmet Rushti Pasha, his Envoy to the Ameer of Afghanistan. He is well spoken of. He will leave for Bombay next week. I have had conversation about his Mission with Sheikh-ul-Islam, who is a very intelligent man, and professes himself very favourable to our interests and policy. He assures me that he will give very stringent instructions to the Envoy to threaten the Ameer and such of his Chiefs as are inclined to favour Russia with excommunication if they give us trouble. I have given the Grand Vizier some hints as to the present state of affairs in Afghanistan, and as to the instructions to be furnished to the Envoy. Let me know if you have anything to suggest. The Sultan takes very great interest in this mission, and it would be advisable to show any attention compatible with our neutrality to his Envoy on his arrival at Bombay. He will, I am told, be accompanied by the Turkish Consul at Bombay as far as the Afghan frontier. I have advised that he

should take steps to make the object of his Mission known to the Chiefs and others in Afghanistan before entering the country. He will have letters to the Akhon of Swat, and presents to him and the Ameer. Have you a trustworthy person who could accompany him as interpreter without causing suspicion?"

No. 123.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 19, 1877.*

TURKS assert that Suleiman Pasha has reached Gradac, three hours from Spuz.

No. 124.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 19, 1877, 5:30 P.M.*

IS the note referred to in your telegram No. 177 the note from Count Andrassy to Count Zichy of May 22, of which a copy was sent to you in my despatch No. 177 of June 7?

No. 125.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 19, 1877, noon.*

A RECONNAISSANCE in force, under General Skoboleff the younger, will probably take place across the Danube in the course of the next thirty-six hours, somewhere near Oltenitza.

The force will cross in boats, and will consist of Cossacks, Light Infantry, and perhaps a troop of Horse Artillery.

The object appears to be to cut the Varna-Rustchuk Railway.

No. 126.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, June 20, 1877.*

THE following confidential and reliable telegram has been received:—

"Condition of Montenegro desperate. Turks having won several victories are marching from Nichsich to Spuz. Montenegrins being hard pressed are completely disorganized. Prince's position not known, supposed to be at Ostrog. Telegraphic communication interrupted. Road to capital believed to be open."

No. 127.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1877, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have no doubt that the note referred to in my telegram No. 177 is partly founded on despatch of Count Andrassy, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 177; but I have reason to believe that it also refers to another despatch of Count Andrassy.

I have not yet got a copy of it, as it is thirty-six pages long.

No. 128.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1877, 2·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 146, India Office thinks there is no occasion for sanctioning the appointment of a Turkish Consul at Peshawur, as Turkey has no commercial interests there, and no Consul has hitherto been appointed to any inland Indian town.

No. 129.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1877, 2·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 147, you should not encourage the proposed mission to Affghanistan, or hold out any promise of acquiescence in it on the part of the Indian authorities.

No. 130.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Consul Skene's despatch No. 28 of the 29th May, reporting the proceedings respecting murder of Cavass, urge Porte in the strongest manner to take immediate steps for instituting a proper inquiry into this case with the co-operation of Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo.

Report at once by telegraph the answer which you receive from the Porte to your representation.

No. 131.

Vice-Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 20.)

Serajevo, June 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
NICHSICH revictualled and communication free. Suleiman Pasha occupied Ostrog in Montenegro on the 10th, and hopes in a few days to effect a junction with Ali Saib Pasha.

No. 132.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 20, 5:30 P.M.)

Vienna, June 20, 1877, 4·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
A TELEGRAM received to-day by the Austrian Government from Scutari does not confirm news forwarded by Mr. St. John, but states that both Mehemet Ali and Said Pasha have been repulsed, and that Suleiman, though on Montenegrin territory, is still near frontier and advancing very slowly, subject to severe losses.

No. 133.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
GOVERNMENT of India have consented to prolong your tenure of your post for two years.

No. 134.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Bucharest, June 19, 1877, 3·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
THE Grand Duke's language to Colonel Wellesley has leaked out through officers at the Russian head-quarters.

His position is becoming a disagreeable one, and he wishes to receive your Lordship's instructions with as little delay as possible.

No. 135.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Tiflis, June 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
RUSSIAN authorities do not name exact route, and wish to pass these people across frontier, leaving them to take care of themselves. This is inconvenient. Please, therefore, ask the Porte by what way and to what place they wish them to be sent. I will then communicate answer to authorities.

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Constantinople, June 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, I have already told the Grand Vizier that the Indian Government would probably not wish a Turkish Consul to be appointed at Peshawur, and the request will not, I think, be repeated.

No. 137.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Constantinople, June 20, 1877.

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.)
GRAND VIZIER states that he has positive information that there is a secret understanding between Austria and Russia, and that preparations are being made at Gladova for the crossing of the Danube by Russian troops, and for their passage through Servia. Porte is much alarmed, and has asked for explanations of Austrian Ambassador, who has telegraphed to Vienna, and of the Servian Agent.

Sent to Belgrade.

No. 138.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Tehran, June 20, 1877, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE received the following information from the Meshed Agent:—

"The Russians have made proposals to the people of Karee Kala and Nokohr to declare their allegiance to Russia. The people of these two places have referred to the Government of Boojnoord, and they to the Government of Khorassan, who have referred to Tehran, asking for a reply by telegraph. I have seen Nokohr, and it undoubtedly belongs to Boojnoord."

Karee Kala is on the southern slope of the Akhal range, and is occupied by a branch of the Goklana from Khiva; its possession by Russia will open up to them the whole of the valley of the Upper Atrek.

Communicated to India.

No. 139.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 182.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
I WAS authorized by the Viceroy of India to inform the Sultan that the Envoy whom he has appointed to go to Affghanistan would be guaranteed a passage through India to the Affghan frontier. It will be now very awkward, and produce a very bad effect, to inform the Sultan that the Indian authorities will not acquiesce in mission. What do you wish me to do under the circumstances?

No. 140.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 20, 1877, 11 P.M.*
IMPERIAL Government assent to proposal that Russian Consuls in England should grant certificates of protection against seizure to coal ships on production of evidence that the coal is intended for delivery in Egypt to neutral firms, &c., and have issued instructions accordingly to Russian Embassy in London; this facility is granted with reserve that it shall not establish a principle, and, in case of abuse, be revocable.

No. 141.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 21, 1877, 4 P.M.*
(Confidential.)
TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires here has received privately, from the Grand Vizier, the offer of, and has accepted, the post of Envoy at Teheran.
No better choice could be made. He is conciliatory and moderate.

No. 142.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 21.)

Athens, June 21, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
THERE appears to be no foundation whatever for report mentioned in my despatch No. 116 of June 14.

No. 143.

*The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.**

Foreign Office, June 21, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
TELL Colonel Wellesley that his despatch of the 12th instant was received yesterday. I at once communicated the substance of it to the Russian Ambassador, telling him that the Queen is deeply hurt at the manner in which one of her officers attending Russian army with Emperor's permission has been treated.
I said that if the Russian authorities have any ground of complaint against him, personal or official, it should be stated, as Her Majesty's Government have no desire to retain at Russian head-quarters any one shown for sufficient cause to be unacceptable; but while he remains he should be treated as an officer and a gentleman in the service of a friendly Power.
I begged his Excellency to submit the matter at once to the Emperor.
The Russian Ambassador has been here to-day. He says that too much importance should not be attached to hasty language of Grand Duke, and that he has telegraphed to the Emperor, and hopes that he will succeed in getting matters satisfactorily settled.

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* Repeated to St. Petersburgh.

No. 144.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 21, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*
WITH reference to your despatch No. 422 of May 8, Ricketts reports that Russian authorities are ready to let the sixty-three Turks go across frontier to Batoum. He asks if Porte will issue instructions for their reception at some particular outpost, the name of which should be telegraphed to him.

No. 145.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 21, 1877.*
I AM assured by M. Tricoupi that he has no knowledge of any Greek Agent having been sent by the Greek Government to meet the Emperor of Russia in Roumania, and that if such a step had been taken he must have known of it.
The above figures have been sent to Mr. Layard.

No. 146.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 21, 1877, 10·15 P.M.*
COLONEL WELLESLEY reports 40,000 Russians at Ibraila and Galatz.
Bridge between Ibraila and the opposite shore will be completed to-night. Crossing of a considerable detachment in presence of the Emperor and unmolested by the Turks expected at daybreak.
Simultaneous crossing in boats from Galatz also expected.
To secure Matchin as point of disembarkation for Dobrutcha force is the probable object of both detachments.
Next probable crossing at Oltenitza, date uncertain, where preliminary Russian artillery fire has already commenced.
A dash will be made on Roustchouk by several detachments crossing simultaneously under cover of siege artillery between Giurgevo and Magurelli.
Main column of four corps will probably cross at a place between Magurelli and Giurgevo right and left of Zimnicea, their probable object being Tatar-Bazardjik, viâ Tirnova.
A Roumanian and Russian force may, perhaps, cross higher up the Danube, with the intention of moving in the direction of Sofia. I believe the following is the actual position of the Russian army corps:—11th, Oltenitza; 13th moving west of Giurgevo to support 8th; 8th and 12th between Magurelli and Giurgevo; 14th acting as reserve of 11th; 9th at Magurelli; Bulgarian legion, 4,000 strong, between latter place and Giurgevo; 7th and 10th at the mouth of the Danube and on the Black Sea coast.

No. 147.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877, 11:30 P.M.*
I AM informed that a Russian war-steamer, with torpedo-boat in tow, appeared yesterday off Amasey, near Heraeli, on the Turkish coast of the Black Sea, and captured two small Turkish merchant-vessels, which Russians immediately blew up with torpedoes. Nothing is yet known of their crews.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 148.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 186.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
HAVE only received this evening answer to my note about blockade of Russian ports in Black Sea. Substance as follows:—Porte states that there is no foundation for doubts as to its efficiency. The Turkish Government in establishing it has conformed strictly to the Declarations of Paris as to the force being efficient; hitherto no instance has been given of vessels escaping it; supposing it to be true that small boats and vessels have been able to go from one Russian port to another, this does not affect the efficiency of the blockade. No ship of war or of commerce under any flag whatever has entered or left Odessa, and passed the blockading squadron. The Porte therefore hopes that Her Majesty's Government will not question the efficiency of the blockade.

No. 149.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

Scutari, June 21, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
FORCE that had advanced from Spuz has evidently met with serious defeat. The few troops here and elsewhere are being hurriedly sent to the front.
No details yet.

No. 150.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 187.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
ANSWER to my note about the Suez Canal just received. Following is substance:—
"Porte assents to view of Her Majesty's Government relating to the free passage of the Canal for all neutral vessels; as regards hostilities in it and its approaches, the Porte states that, as the Canal is part of the Ottoman Empire, and has never been declared neutral, they cannot permit access of enemies' ships to it; they have taken measures to protect two entrances from the approach of enemies' ships (figures omitted) rights of Turkey and any of her prerogatives as a territorial Power. Copy of note will be sent to-morrow by post."

No. 151.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

Scutari, June 22, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
SPUTZ force having failed to form a junction with Herzegovina corps, fell back yesterday. Has made another start to-day reinforced by all the available troops.

No. 152.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

Vienna, June 22, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
NOTHING has transpired here in confirmation of Mr. Layard's telegram respecting Servia. On the contrary, the press appears to believe that a mobilization is imminent to protect Austrian interests there and elsewhere. I shall make inquiries to-morrow, but the duplicity of Austrian connivance at the passage of a Russian army through the Principalities, after having induced the Porte not to adopt defensive measures against such a proceeding, would be too flagrant to be credible.

No. 153.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22, 1·9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, June 22, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*
RUSSIANS commenced crossing in boats last night. At 3 this morning firing began, and ceased apparently at 10.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 183.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
VICEROY of India appears to attach very great importance to Turkish Mission to Afghanistan, and urges me to get Envoy sent off at once, as he considers he may be of great use.

No. 155.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 184.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
KEMBALL'S cypher telegrams have been refused by the authorities.
Turkish right wing has received a severe defeat, and he is very apprehensive of result.

No. 156.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 187.) *Constantinople, June 21, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)
ANSWER to my note about the Suez Canal just received. Following is substance:—
Porte assents to view of Her Majesty's Government relating to the free passage of the Canal for all neutral vessels. As regards hostilities in it and its approaches, the Porte states that, as the Canal is part of the Ottoman Empire, and has never been declared neutral, they cannot permit access of enemies' ships to it; they have taken measures to protect two entrances from the approach of enemies' ship's [figures omitted] rights of Turkey and any of her prerogatives as a territorial Power. Copy of note will be sent to-morrow by post.

No. 157.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, June 22, 1877.*
MR. CROWE reports two Russian ships of war as having entered Baltic, homeward bound. Three more shortly expected bound for Cronstadt and coaling at Kiel. It is not likely that a Russian fleet will now leave Baltic this year.

No. 158.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

St. Petersburgh, June 22, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)
UKASE for the new internal loan of 200,000,000 roubles published in to-day's "Official Gazette."

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 159.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 22, 1877.*
(Confidential.)

I SAID to-day to M. Orczy that it appeared to me impossible, after what passed between Russia and Austria respecting Servia, that there could be any foundation for a report that Russia intended to cross the Danube at Gladova, and his Excellency answered that, so far from Russia intending to do so, he believed the Cossacks were the only Russian troops on this side of Aluta.

Count Andrassy is confined to his bed at Schönbrunn, but I am told his promised despatch to Count Beust will be forwarded to-morrow.

No change officially reported in the situation in Montenegro.

No. 160.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

Galatz, June 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS occupied hills opposite Galatz with about 4,000 men; loss reported heavy.

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 188.) *Therapia, June 22, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Government has replied to the representation of the Porte with regard to alleged movement in Servia that, although there is a political party in the Principality that may wish to embroil Servia again in war with Turkey, the Turkish Government should remain quiet and indifferent to it, as the assurances received as to the attitude of Servia are satisfactory.

No. 162.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 189.) *Therapia, June 22, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE now obtained copy of the note of the Austrian Ambassador referred to in my telegram No. 177 of the 18th instant. It is very nearly the same in substance as Count Andrassy's despatch to Count Zichy inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 177, with the exception that some of the expressions in the Note are perhaps stronger, especially one referring to Turkish "system of declaring and considering Danube simply as a line of defence of the Ottoman Empire," which Austria says she cannot admit. Although I have seen Austrian Ambassador several times, and have spoken to him about the navigation of the Danube, he has carefully avoided any allusion to this Note.

No. 163.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 190.) *Therapia, June 22, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

WILL you let me know as soon as possible whether Sultan's Envoy to Affghanistan may pass through India, as Porte has made all the arrangements for his departure on Wednesday next?

No. 164.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 191.) *Therapia, June 23, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

MR. THOMSON requests me to forward following to your Lordship:—

"Mr. Abbott considers that Persian Koords, who have recently crossed the frontier, ostensibly to aid the Turks, only seek indiscriminate plunder, and that if Koordish irregulars are allowed to enter the Tyaree itself, Christian population will be in great danger.

"In a subsequent telegram he states that a convent and several Christian villages in Turkish territory have been pillaged by Persian Koords of the Shekakee tribe."

No. 165.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 192.) *Therapia, June 23, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING information received from the Porte:—

"Russians crossed Danube in boats with heavy loss last night at two points in the Dobrudja, namely, between Matchin and Isaktcha, and again between Hirsova and Kara Agatch. Turkish forces retired after proper resistance. Number of Russian troops that crossed unknown.

"Bayazid is occupied by 12,000 Kurds. Russian garrison retired to a strong building out of the town, which is about to be attacked by Turkish regulars now marching upon it. Mouktar Pasha announces two great battles fought on the 21st and 22nd instant. Result most favourable to Turkish arms. Names of places where the fighting took place not mentioned. Junction effected by the Turkish corps d'armée in Montenegro."

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1877, 2·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 612 of the 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government did not intend to instruct you to propose to the Porte or to support the peace conditions mentioned in my telegram.

They merely wished to inform you confidentially of them, and to receive your observations.

No. 167.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1877, 3·20 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd instant, as the Turkish Mission to Afghanistan has been sanctioned by you, after communication with the Viceroy, Her Majesty's Government are now unwilling to stop it.

The Indian Government will, however, be directed not [in any way to identify itself with the Mission, but simply to forward it with ordinary civilities.

Her Majesty's Government think that for the future it will be desirable, in order to avoid confusion, that communications between the Embassy and the Viceroy should, as a rule, pass through London.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE CONTROL

No. 168.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Vienna, June 23, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

THE Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople is to state, in answer to the inquiry of the Porte as to the probable passage of Russian troops through Servia, that the Austrian Government continue to believe that such a measure is not intended, but that they cannot pretend to answer for the intentions of Roumania and Servia, though they believe Russia has advised both, and especially the latter Principality, not to take part in the war. They decline, therefore, giving any advice on the subject.

The Servian Agent here explained yesterday at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that Prince Milan had visited the Emperor of Russia, not with a view to declaring war, but to demonstrate to his own subjects that in maintaining peace he was acting by the advice of His Imperial Majesty.

No. 169.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Vienna, June 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE official telegrams to-day represent Turks advancing from Nichsich and Montenegrins holding opposite heights at Ostrog; while skirmishes between them are generally favourable to latter. The other Turkish corps are said to be unable to advance to effect a junction with that at Ostrog.

No. 170.

Vice-Consul Brown to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Braila, June 23, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS have taken Matchin, abandoned by Turks without further fighting. Czar returned to Ploesti after review. Russian troops from here crossing in steam-boats and by bridge.

No. 171.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Belgrade, June 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SENT Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople following:—

"Prince Milan returns to-night. With regard to intention attributed to Russian troops to cross Danube into Servia this is unlikely, as no movement of Russian troops reported from Little Wallachia. Those stationed there hitherto are Roumanian, and if these intended assuming offensive something ought to be known of it at Bucharest. I am without information on the subject."

No. 172.

Vice-Consul Brown to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Braila, June 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN force, 4,000, crossed yesterday in boats from Galatz; attacked and captured two batteries on spur of Balkans; now attacking Matchin; eighty wounded returned to Galatz. Bridge, Ibraila, ready. Czar just arrived. Crossing in force hourly.

No. 173.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

Bucharest, June 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports that twelve companies of Russians crossed yesterday at Ibraila without opposition. At 2 this morning they attacked Turks in entrenchments and drove them in. Considerable loss on both sides. Fighting continued till 5 A.M.

Russian outposts eight miles north of Matchin.

No. 174.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 24.)

Scutari, June 23, 1877

(Telegraphic.)

THIS morning at 10 o'clock I telegraphed to your Lordship that the junction between the forces of Suleiman and Ali Saib Pashas had been effected in neighbourhood of Martinici, Suleiman Pasha having gained the road by the village of Shatina. Now, at half-past 8 in the evening, I am informed that, by the orders of the Porte, I can only telegraph to your Lordship *en clair*.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 175.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 24.)

Belgrade, June 24, 1877, 6 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Prince of Servia returned from his visit to Roumania late last night.

No. 176.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)

Tehran, June 24, 1877, 5·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is an extract from a telegram sent to the Viceroy:—

"The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to the Russian Minister here the other day respecting Karee Kala, claiming that district as Persian, but his representations on this subject were met with an evasive assurance that Russia will not take possession of any places to which Persia has a just claim.

"The Upper Atrek Valley is peopled by Koords acknowledging allegiance, but not always submissive to Persia."

No. 177.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)

Tehran, June 24, 1877, 7·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated yesterday to Secretary of Legation that Goklans of Karee Kala had replied to Russian demand that they were Persian subjects. That they held a document to that effect issued under authority by Government of Boojnoord, and that they have been directed to hold to that declaration; that having claimed this territory as Persian, and no exception having been taken thereto by Russian Envoy, he thought a protest now would excite animosity against Russia, but that the Persian Government would maintain the justice of their claim to all the territory along the valley of the Upper Atrek, and now protest most formally against all interference with it, if Her Majesty's Government would give them their moral support at St. Petersburgh, on the ground of the understanding between the

two Governments to respect the integrity of Persian territory. Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 178.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)*

Rustchuk, June 24, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSTCHUK to-day hotly bombarded from opposite side five hours, commencing 3 o'clock. Fire at first directly on each quarter consecutively, but about 6 o'clock deliberately turned on Consulates. British, facing Russian batteries, with large Union Jack flying, destroyed by four consecutive shells. French struck, and all narrowly escaped. I being here in interest of Christians, protégés of Russians, Consulates should not be objects of their fire. If repeated, our position untenable. Colleagues telegraph identically.

No. 179.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)

St. Petersburgh, June 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram publishes this morning that a small force of Russians crossed Danube at Galatz, and occupy Bondjak on right bank on night of 21st instant.

General Zimmerman occupied Matchin on 23rd June. Direct communication between Braila and Matchin are being established.

No. 180.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)

Bucharest, June 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TWO fresh army corps are entering Roumania, one by way of Bolgrad, and the other through Moldavia.

Giurgevo has been very severely injured by the latest Turkish cannonade; the telegraph office and many public buildings totally destroyed.

No. 181.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Foreign Office, June 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TELL Colonel Wellesley that I have been informed by the Russian Ambassador that Prince Gortchakow has telegraphed to him that he is going to Bucharest, and will see Colonel Wellesley, and invite him, on the part of the Emperor, to come to the Emperor's own head-quarters.

Her Majesty's Government wish Colonel Wellesley to accept this invitation when made to him by Prince Gortchakow, and to report the nature of the reception given to him and arrangements made for him; and, also, whether he thinks that his continuance there, under the circumstances, can be of further advantage.

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* Repeated to Paris.

No. 182.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 25.)

Vienna, June 25, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SULEIMAN PASHA is now reported to have effected a junction with Said Pasha; but, from the nature of the country, it is believed that the Montenegrins may still offer considerable resistance to the advance of the Turks.

No. 183.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 193.) *Therapia, June 25, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that after the Kurds had retaken Bayazid they dispersed, and have plundered Mussulman and Christian villages alike in all directions. Porte has sent orders to stop these excesses, but it fears that they have already been considerable.

No. 184.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 195.) *Therapia, June 25, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

THE following information has been sent by the Turkish Commander-in-chief at Batoum to the Minister of war:—

"On the 23rd instant the Turkish irregulars were attacked by Russians at Jihad Tepe, near Batoum. Latter were repulsed with heavy loss, 1,000 killed. Turks lost 200. On the 24th the Russians unexpectedly took the offensive again. The irregulars were reinforced by Osman Pasha with two battalions. Later in the day the Commander-in-chief, Dervich Pasha, reached the scene of action with three more battalions. Russians were entirely defeated, leaving 1,500 killed, and abandoning their positions."

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 196.) *Therapia, June 25, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen draft of the answer of the Porte to the Austrian note. It states that the measures taken on the Danube are provisional; that the treatment of neutral vessels on fluvial waters and on the sea must be different, but that this will not prevent respect for neutral property. Austrian vessels have not been confiscated, but only detained, to prevent them falling into the hands of the Russians and being used for war purposes; that the Porte agrees with the views of the Austrian Government about neutrality of the Danubian Commission, and has recognized its right to hoist its flag, only requiring that the Turkish flag should be hoisted with it; that it will respect its international engagements; and that it has given a proof of its desire to meet the wishes of the Austrian Government by agreeing to Austrian vessels ascending above Timok. The note takes no notice of what is said in the Austrian note about the claim of Turkey to consider the Danube the line of defence of the Empire.

No. 186.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 198.) *Therapia, June 26, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of June 20 I have just received following answer to my representations:—

As neither the Cavass nor his son were British subjects, the Porte could not under the Constitution authorize the investigation proposed by Consul Skene, but is ready to send proper functionary from Constantinople, who would initiate a strict inquiry into all the proceedings connected with the two cases. Should this course not lead to a satisfactory result there will probably be no difficulty in having both cases referred to Constantinople, where the sentences of the local Court of Aleppo may be revised by the criminal section of the Cour de Cassation. I am informed confidentially that the Porte is desirous that justice should be done and satisfaction given to our demands.

No. 187.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

Bucharest, June 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian head-quarters have been moved to Alexandria, a place south-west of Bucharest.

No. 188.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

Foreign Office, June 26, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received the following telegram *en clair* from Consul Read, at Rustchuk, dated June 24, 11 P.M.:—

"Rustchuk to-day hotly bombarded from opposite side, five hours, commencing 3 o'clock. Fire at first directly on each quarter consecutively, but about 6 deliberately turned on Consulates. British, facing Russian batteries, with large Union Jack flying, destroyed by four consecutive shells. French struck, and all narrowly escaped. I being here in interest of Christians, protégés of Russians, Consulates should not be objects of their fire. If repeated, our position untenable. Colleagues telegraph identically."

Ascertain what steps the French Government propose to take in the matter.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 199.)

Therapia, June 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE just received following from the Sublime Porte:—

"Avis aux navigateurs concernant le mouillage de leurs navires dans le Détroit des Dardanelles de la Mer Noire. Dans le port de Smyrne et celui de la Sude, Ile de Crete, Détroit des Dardanelles, côte d'Anatolie, les navires ne pourront mouiller que sur les points ci-dessous indiqués: Nagara Bastahane, hôpital au bas de Nagara, Kephes, Pointe des Barbiers, et au bas de Itekirjoiz à Caravlik. Côte de Roumélie—Kille près Maidos au-dessous de la batterie de Boghali, Havouzlar et Eski-Hissarlek. Détroit de la Mer Noire—le mouillage des navires est défendu à partir de la batterie dite Madjar Tabiassi. Sur la côte d'Anatolie et celle dite Telli Tabia sur la côte de Roumélie jusqu'à la hauteur de Roumélie et d'Anatolie Feneri, le mouillage des navires n'est permis qu'en deça des dites batteries Madjar Tabiassi et Telli Tabia. Port de Smyrne—les navires ne pourront mouiller que dans l'intérieur du port de Smyrne. Le mouillage sur les points compris à partir d'un mille avant d'arriver en face du fort Yenikale, jusqu'à l'entrée du port même de Smyrne, est défendu. Port de la Sude—les navires ne pourront mouiller sur aucun point à partir d'un mille de distance du port de la Sude jusqu'à l'entrée du dit port; le mouillage n'est donc permis que dans l'intérieur du port même. Les navires qui traverseront les points interdits au mouillage des bâtiments auront le soin de ne pas laisser leurs ancres à la traine, mais les avoir au haut de l'écubier et bien caponnées."

No. 190.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 200.)

Therapia, June 26, 1877, 11·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT has been found that the Turkish Minister of Marine has given a pass to a ship belonging to Valiano and Co., of Marseilles and Taganrog, to go to and return from Russian ports in the Black Sea, in order, it is pretended, to fetch a cargo ( ) for the Palace. Strong representations have been made to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and he admits that the matter is grave. It is suspected that the Company in question has bribed somebody at the Palace to obtain this pass in order to protect valuable cargoes.

No. 191.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 201.)

Therapia, June 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE is sending Circular to Agents abroad complaining that the Russian armed steamer that captured the three Turkish merchant-vessels near Terakli destroyed them with torpedoes, two of them with their crews. The Porte protests against this unnecessary act of barbarity.

No. 192.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 202.)

Constantinople, June 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Turks seem to have obtained a considerable success on the 21st near Belibiara (Delibaba?), but with much loss. I have no details from Kemball, as his telegrams, notwithstanding distinct promises of the Porte, upon which no reliance can be placed, appear to be stopped.

No. 193.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

Bucharest, June 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS have crossed the Danube in very large numbers at Zimnitza. No resistance.

Head-quarters of the Grand Duke now in Bulgaria. Russian outposts 30 miles south of Danube.

No. 194.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27.)

Scutari, June 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

JUDGING from the number of wounded during the late fighting, the losses of the Turks must have been very heavy; the mutilated are numerous. Details and result given by post.

No. 195.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 27, 2·30 P.M.)

Paris, June 27, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has requested Russian Ambassador here to urge that care be taken that the foreign Consulates at Rustchuk be not fired upon by the Russian batteries.

His Excellency does not seem disposed to make any strong remonstrance with regard to what has already occurred.

He has informed the French Consul that it would be inconsistent with his dignity to leave Rustchuk unless his colleagues should do so.

No. 196.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 27, 1877, 3·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 198, ask the Porte to allow Consul Skene to be present at the inquiry as a spectator in order that he may report the proceedings to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 197.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 27, 1877.*

ONE hundred and eighty cases of Turkish military accoutrements shipped on Austrian mail-packet at Constantinople for Prevesa, and reshipped on board the corresponding Austrian packet, after having been landed at Corfu, were transferred to a lighter, and detained at Corfu by order of Greek authorities, in consequence of protest of Russian Consul against transmission as a violation of neutrality.

The Porte now protests against detention, and has ordered a war steamer to proceed to Corfu to take possession of the cases, declaring that refusal will be treated as a violation of neutrality.

An announcement to this effect was made to M. Tricoupi this afternoon by Ottoman Minister in very overbearing terms.

M. Tricoupi, who has just left me, informed me that he intends to send Greek ships of war to Corfu as soon as possible to by force if necessary, and he hopes that Her Majesty's Government and other neutral Powers will also send ships to protect the neutrality of Corfu from attack.

The Russian Minister had supported the protest of his Consul, and whether the Greek Government have been right or wrong in acting upon it I am convinced that they did so with a sincere desire to maintain an impartial neutrality, the Ottoman Minister having protested last year against transmission of arms from Corfu for Montenegro not then at war.

M. Tricoupi had before present announcement sent orders that the cases now in question might be re-embarked on board the next Austrian steamer for Trieste if the Austrian Consul desired it.

I have sent the above to Constantinople.

No. 198.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, June 27, 1877.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports:—"Nothing could be more satisfactory than the manner in which I was received this morning by Prince Gortchakow. His Highness said, in the kindest terms, that he trusted that the disagreeable incident connected with my reception at head-quarters would now be considered at an end, that the Emperor had desired him to invite me to His Majesty's headquarters, where I should be perfectly well received, both by the Emperor and the Grand Duke.

"I shall be attached in the same manner as my German and Austrian colleagues.

"I expressed to his Highness my gratitude for the manner in which he received me, and begged him to convey to His Majesty my most respectful thanks for his gracious invitation.

"Prince Gortchakow was anxious that the Queen and Her Majesty's Government should be immediately informed of the result of my interview.

"Prince Gortchakow at present ignores where the Imperial head-quarters are, but will communicate with me when he knows."

No. 199.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 28, 1877.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the Montenegrins have horribly mutilated Turkish prisoners, statement which appears to be confirmed by Consul Green.

It is greatly to be feared that this may lead to terrible acts of retaliation, although I have been assured by Porte that the most peremptory orders have been given to the military authorities to prevent outrages, and to insure respect to the old men, women, and children.

No. 200.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 28, 1877.*

I AM officially informed by the Porte that the beacons on Cape Sonta and Drepano in Crete will no longer be lighted, and no vessels are for the future to be allowed to approach places in that island where no port or sanitary station exists.

No. 201.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 28, 1877.*

A RUSSIAN corps of 50,000 has crossed the Danube at Simnitza and occupied Sistova and surrounding heights.

No. 202.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 28, 1877.*

A LARGE Russian force crossed the Danube yesterday to Hirsova and effected a junction with the force which had crossed at Ibraila and advanced through the Dobrudja.

It is estimated that there are now at least 70,000 or 80,000 Russians south of the Danube, and the passage is proceeding very rapidly along the whole line.

Weather cool and the troops in high spirits.

Up to the present moment apparently no resistance.

No. 203.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Reade.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 28, 1877, 12·30 A.M.*

I HAVE ascertained from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris that the French Minister of Foreign Affairs has requested Russian Ambassador there to urge that care be taken that foreign Consulates at Rustchuk be not fired upon by the Russian batteries.

He has informed the French Consul that it would be inconsistent with his dignity to leave Rustchuk, unless his colleagues should do so.

I have made a similar communication to the Russian Ambassador here, who has promised to have the matter inquired into.

You should also remain at your post, unless the other Consuls leave.

No. 204.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

Foreign Office, June 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Stuart's telegram of the 27th, which has been repeated to your Excellency, on the subject of the detention of Turkish military accoutrements at Corfu, what are the facts of the case as represented at Constantinople?

The Porte should bear in mind that difficulties may arise under Article II of the Treaty between Great Britain, France, Russia, and Greece of March 29, 1864, unless the matter is dealt with judiciously.

No. 205.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 29.)

Constantinople, June 28, 1877.

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed by Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" that Turks will probably not defend Kustendji lines, and that they are withdrawing from the Dobrudja, everything having been destroyed, and Christians being exposed to great outrages from Circassians and Tartars, many being killed.

Bulgarians, it is stated, began by attacking Mussulmans. This information has been confirmed to me from another trustworthy source, but I am afraid that the state of affairs where Turkish troops may have to withdraw and the Christians may be induced to rise will be very serious.

Turkish authorities are powerless.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 29.)

Therapia, June 28, 1877, 6·40 P.M.

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Stuart's telegram of yesterday, I have communicated with the Austrian Ambassador, who agrees with me in thinking that the Porte was justified in protesting against the detention of the cases containing clothes by the Greek Government at Corfu. He said that he would telegraph in this sense to Vienna, and had no doubt that the question would be settled and the cases forwarded to their destination. According to a telegram from the Turkish Minister at Athens to the Porte, the Greek Government will consider the dispatch of a Turkish ship-of-war to Corfu as an act of hostility, and consents to authorize the transportation of the cases to Trieste if the Austrian Consul at Corfu makes an official demand to that effect. I am endeavouring to prevail upon the Porte not to send ship-of-war.

Sent to Athens.

No. 207.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 29.)

Therapia, June 28, 1877, 10 P.M.

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of this morning No. 207, Minister for Foreign Affairs assures me that it was never the intention of the Porte to send ship-of-war to take away by force the cases of accoutrements seized at Corfu, but to have the case dealt with according to international law.

Sent to Athens.

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* Repeated to Athens.

No. 208.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 29.)

Therapia, June 28, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister of War informs me that orders have been sent to commence at once works for defence of Gallipoli Peninsula.

No. 209.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28, at night.)

Bucharest, June 28, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

IT appears that there was more resistance to the Russian passage at Zimnicea that (than ?) at first reported. Loss stated to be from 1,000 to 1,200. Turkish loss supposed to be insignificant.

A passage was attempted at Turnu and was repulsed. This may be stated to have been merely a false attack.

Hundred thousand Russians are probably crossing at Zimnicea.

Nicopoli is in flames. Roustchouk heavily bombarded. Her Majesty's Consulate totally destroyed. Mr. Reade is safe.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORM Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ships at Sulina that Admiralty wish protection to be afforded to vessels of Danubian Navigation Company if necessary.

No. 211.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1877, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE you taken any steps with regard to the infraction of the capitulations in the cases of the two British subjects mentioned in despatch from Vice-Consul at Damascus of 10th instant?

No. 212.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th instant, you should act on my No. 253, which refers to coal intended for Her Majesty's ships in belligerent ports, whereas your despatch No. 328 relates to coal for Port Said. The certificates in one case will be issued by the Admiralty and in the other by the Russian Consul.

No. 213.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

Bucharest, June 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

IT is reported that the Russians have crossed the Danube in force at Oltenitza. No details obtainable.